

***AN ADJOURNED MEETING OF THE FAUQUIER COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS WAS HELD MARCH 23, 1999 AT 7:00 P.M. IN THE FAUQUIER HIGH SCHOOL CAFETERIA IN WARRENTON, VIRGINIA***

P R E S E N T Mr. Larry L. Weeks, Chairman; Mr. Joe Winkelmann, Vice Chairman; Mr. Wilbur W. Burton; Mr. James R. Green, Jr.; Mr. David C. Mangum; Mr. G. Robert Lee, County Administrator; Mr. Paul S. McCulla, County Attorney

**INTERACTIVE PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION REGARDING THE PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO SYSTEM**

A public information session was held regarding the public safety radio system. Mark Cornwell, Project Officer, presented an overview of the public safety radio system project. The following persons spoke:

- Capt. Fred PfiEFF spoke in favor of a new system and presented a specific incident when deputies could not communicate with each other.
- Chuck Medvitz presented overheads and asked what was being done to improve the present system. Carl Billingsley, a member of the Public Safety Radio System Committee, indicated improvements that had been made.
- Roy Anderson spoke to the non-availability of 300-watt systems.
- Joe Higgs noted that raising the antenna would not resolve coverage problems.
- George Jolley spoke to problems with the existing system.
- Eric Junger spoke of problems with the existing system.
- Butler Grant spoke of problems with the existing system.
- Gary Healy gave specific shortfalls of the existing system.
- Bev Ennis spoke in favor of the 800 MHz system.
- Dell Ennis spoke of inadequacies of the existing system based on his experience in the "ride-along" program.
- Steve Souter, Region 20 Chairman, spoke to the allocation process for limited radio frequencies.
- Jim Borland asked if Fauquier County could get its own frequencies or if the County will have to share. Mr. Souter said that it would depend on how many frequencies were granted.
- Tom Reese asked if there were multiple vendors that could supply the 800 MHz system. Mr. Souter said that there were.
- Greg Mauck asked if the frequencies had to be used shortly after allocation. Mr. Souter said they were to be used within three years.
- Chuck Medvitz said that the State of Washington mixed 800 MHz and VHF.
- Barbara Severin asked if the system could be in place in less than five years. Mr. Cornwell said that the system design is Phase I and implementation is Phase II and this will take two years.
- Larry Weeks asked when Fauquier County would get satellite communications. Irv Hodnett said that there were too many problems with the one existing satellite system.
- Merle Fallon asked if towers for cell phones could serve the public safety radio system. Mr. Hodnett said that an 800 MHz system would provide full cellular service.
- John King asked how the current system could be improved in case the request for frequencies is not approved.
- Kitty Smith asked if using the free space on the existing tower on Blue Mountain for public safety would solve problems. Carl Billingsley said there would be a problem with linking data back to dispatch from this site. It may help, but would be expensive.

No one else spoke. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned.